

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-05 FDRE-00 HEW-08

SCA-01 SCSE-00 SWF-02 PC-10 PER-05 SY-04 SCI-06

COME-00 INT-08 DRC-01 /131 W  
----- 001580

O R 041645Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2213

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

COMUSARSO FT AMADOR CZ

COMUSNAVSO FT AMADOR CZ

COMUSAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ

UNCLAS LIMA 8405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMER, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE REPORT

REF: LIMA 8393 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PERU, PARTICULARLY THE REGION BETWEEN LIMA AND ICA, SUFFERED ONE OF THE LONGEST EARTHQUAKES IN ITS HISTORY, TERRIFYING THE POPULACE, DAMAGING THOUSANDS OF STRUCTURES BUT APPARENTLY CAUSING LITTLE LOSS OF LIFE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, BETWEEN 44 AND 60 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 1,000 INJURED. TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, ALL REPEAT ALL AMERICANS IN PERU, INCLUDING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN CANETE REGION, ARE UNHARMED.

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1. ACCORDING TO A CIVIL DEFENSE COMMUNIQUE (CITING THE GEO-PHYSICAL INSTITUTE) THE EARTHQUAKE LASTED 135 SECONDS; THE MAGNITUDE WAS 5.6 DEGREES ON THE RICHTER SCALE, THE INTENSITY 7 DEGREES ON THE MERCALLI SCALE; THE EPICENTER WAS IN THE OCEAN, 60 KILOMETERS WEST OF CANETE. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED CRONICA REPORTS THAT EARTHQUAKE MEASUREMENTS WERE STRONGER (6.8 RICHTER AND 9 MERCALLI) BUT DOES NOT CITE SOURCE.

2. PROPERTY DAMAGE WAS WIDESPREAD IN LIMA, CALLAO, CANETE, CHINCHA AND ICA. MODESTLY BUILT STRUCTURES SUFFERED THE MOST DAMAGE. HOWEVER, MODERN CONCRETE STRUCTURES SUCH AS THE GRAIN SILO IN CALLAO AND AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY AT LA MOLINA WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. THE USIS BINATIONAL CENTER SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO ITS INTERIOR BUT IS PROBABLY STILL STRUCTURALLY SOUND. (USIS WILL REPORT DETAILS SEPARATELY.)

3. ACCURATE CASUALTY FIGURES ARE AS YET UNAVAILABLE. CIVIL DEFENSE AUTHORITIES REPORT 44 DEATHS AND 806 INJURED PERSONS. CRONICA REPORTS 36 DEATHS IN LIMA, 9 IN CALLAO, 9 IN CHINCHA, ONE IN ICA AND ONE IN IMPERIAL.

4. USAID IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH PERUVIAN DISASTER RELIEF AUTHORITIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER ASSISTANCE REQUIRED. AS OF 10 A.M. THIS MORNING, GOP HAS MADE NO REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE.

5. LIMA IS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY TODAY. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, NO AMERICAN WAS INJURED. PEACE CORPS VISITED VOLUNTEERS IN CANETE AREA; THEY ARE WELL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EARTHQUAKES, NATURAL DISASTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**TAGS:** AEMR, PINT, PE  
**To:** STATE  
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